

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /093 W

----- 081228

R 261449Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2498

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR/FR

SUBJECT: GATT ARTICLE XXIII FRENCH QRS

REF: A.EC BRUSSELS 7466; B. PARIS 21469

BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH AN AG MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND
CONFIRMED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION,
GOF POSITION IS THAT APPROVAL OF IMPORT CERTIFICATES
IS NOT NECESSARILY AS AUTOMATIC A PROCEDURE AS SUGGEST-
ED IN REFTEL A. AG MINISTRY OFFICIAL POINTS OUT THAT
CURRENTLY IN GRANTING CERTIFICATES EVEN FOR PRODUCTS
COMING FROM OTHER EC COUNTRIES AS ITALY, GOF CAN ASK
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM IMPORTERS. CURRENTLY,
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THERE IS A PROBLEM IN GOF IN DECIDING WHETHER AG MINIS-

TRY OR MINISTRY OF FINANCE (CUSTOMS) WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING CERTIFICATES. AS THE TWO MINISTERS HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS, DECISION WILL BE FOR PRIME MINISTER WHO IS USUALLY SYMPATHETIC TO FRENCH AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS. BECAUSE OF THIS INTERNAL PROBLEM, IT IS LIKELY THAT NEW REGULATIONS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN FRENCH OFFICIAL JOURNAL UNTIL AFTER PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATES OF EC IMPORT CERTIFICATE SYSTEM. WILL INFORM WASHINGTON AND BRUSSELS WHEN PUBLISHED.

COMMENT:

FRENCH POSITION REFLECTS RELUCTANCE TO YIELD DECISION MAKING TO BRUSSELS. IF AG MINISTRY WINS PRESENT DISPUTE IN GOF, IT WILL BE IN POSITION TO AT LEAST SLOW DOWN GRANTING OF CERTIFICATES. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED IN REF TEL B, LOW FRENCH PACK THIS YEAR OF CANNED FRUITS MAY ENCOURAGE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON IMPORTS IN 1975-76. WE BELIEVE IT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR U.S. TO INTERVENE AT PRESENT IN GOF DECISION MAKING ON THIS QUESTION. IN CASE OF POSSIBLE LATER PROBLEMS IN FRENCH IMPLEMENTATION OF EC IMPORT CERTIFICATE SYSTEM WE CAN CITE U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF EC RULES PER REF TEL A.

GAMMON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORT CONTROLS, IMPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS21859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750295-0642
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750817/aaaaapcm.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 EC BRUSSELS 7466, 75 PARIS 21469
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GATT ARTICLE XXIII FRENCH QRS
TAGS: EAGR, FR, GATT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006